

# Otto's Tales





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# Otto's Tales

## The **AMERICAN TRINITY**







**Ruff Ruff!**

I'm Otto. My best friend, Dennis, and I are so excited!

"Spring has sprung! Up come the flowers, out comes the sun!" I barked. We're in such a happy mood.





“And then there’s Passover, too!” said Dennis.  
“Yes,” I barked. “Passover for Jews and Easter for  
Christians. Lots of good food for everyone!”





“Otto,” Dennis continued, “you’ve probably heard of the ‘Christian trinity’—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?”

“I know a ‘trinity’ means something that has three parts,” I replied.

“That’s right. Did you know that America has its very own trinity?”

“The **American Trinity**?” I almost shouted.



“Yes, Otto, it’s written on every American coin: Liberty, In God We Trust, and *E Pluribus Unum*.”

“What does that mean?” I asked.

“That’s not even English!”



“Let’s go find out,” said Dennis.

I hopped onto Dennis’s tricycle and said, “This can be our time machine. Let’s go learn about the American Trinity.”

“Good idea, Otto. Off we go!”



***ZOOM...*** We arrived in New York Harbor in 1903.  
The first thing we saw was the **Statue of Liberty**.  
“She’s so tall,” Dennis said, as we flew up past her nose.  
I looked down and realized just how far we were from her toes.





Then, in the distance, we saw a big, crowded ship.  
I grabbed Dennis's hand and gave it a good grip.



The large ferry was full of people with broad smiles on their faces.  
They were of all different backgrounds, ages, and races.



**Ellis Island** is the place where the big ferry came in.  
A lad stepped off the ship with a big, toothy grin.  
Dennis and I walked over to the happy young boy.  
We asked him, "Why is everyone here so full of joy?"



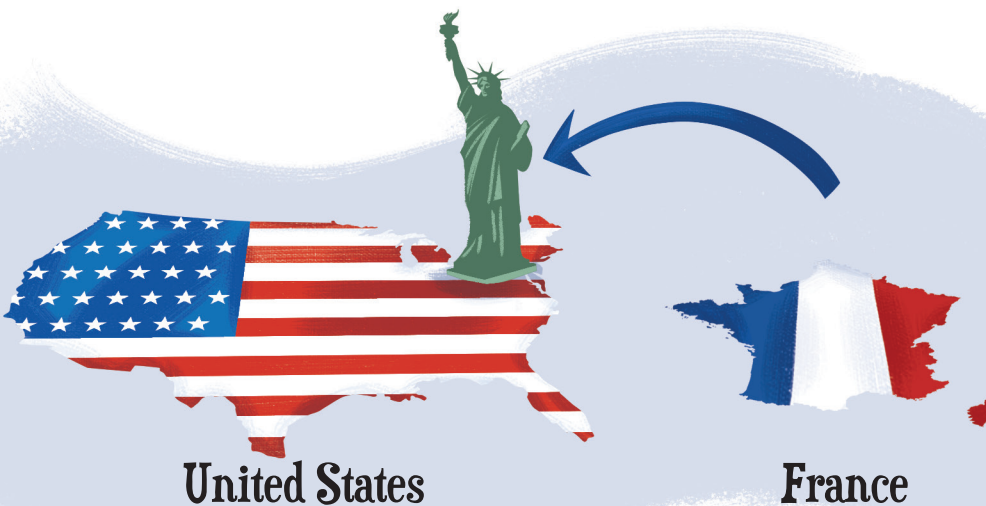


The boy's father appeared, tears welled up in his eyes.  
He scooped up his son and said, "That statue gives me hope for  
our lives."



“Where are you coming from?” Dennis asked the man.

“A faraway place; there’s not much freedom in my land.”



“That statue,” he said, “was a gift to America from France.

It greets people coming to this country, looking for a better chance.”



The boy said, "I've heard that America is the land of the free."

Dennis said, "That's why **Liberty** is part of the American Trinity."

"Welcome to America!" Dennis added. "Wish we could stay."

"It's been a pleasure meeting you, but we must be on our way."





Then **ZOOM...** We flew back in time to an earlier date.  
We landed with a **BING, BANG, BOOM** in 1778.



We arrived in a snowy place; it was a sight to behold.

Never in our lives did we feel so cold!

“Look, Dennis,” I said, “that’s **George Washington** over there.  
With his hands clasped and eyes closed, it looks like he’s in prayer.”





Dennis asked him, "Is the legend of your prayer at **Valley Forge** true?"

Replied Washington, "Some say it's a myth, but I'll share it with you."



Washington went on, "Legend has it that when my troops couldn't take much more,  
I prayed to God to help us win the **Revolutionary War.**"



I asked, "Has God been important since America's start?"

"Yes," said Washington, "faith in God has always played a big part."





He continued, "I believe that God is true, good, and just.  
One day, every U.S. coin will say '**IN GOD WE TRUST.**'"

I said, "Thank you for teaching us about this American motto."  
Washington patted my head and said, "You're welcome, Otto."

Then ***ZOOM...*** we got back onto our tricycle and away we flew.  
We landed at a California courthouse in 2002.







There were people standing there, all over the place.

Men and women of every background and race.

Before the American flag, with solemn faces did they stand.

When prompted to do so, each raised their right hand.



They took an oath, and U.S. citizens they became.

"I am proud to be an American!" we heard one of them proclaim.





Another said, “It doesn’t matter where you are from or what you believe. If you love freedom and obey the laws, U.S. citizenship you can receive.”

Moved by the sight, Dennis began to speak.

He observed, "That's one of the things that makes America so unique."





I barked in agreement, “America is a melting pot and a place of unity.”  
“Coming from everywhere,” said Dennis, “to join in this land of opportunity.”



“Americans are from many places, but come together as one.”  
Dennis said, “That’s the very meaning of ***E Pluribus Unum.***”



Then we got onto our tricycle and again ***ZOOM...***

"Off we go!" all the way back to Dennis's room.

"That was my favorite adventure yet!" I barked.

"You say that every time, Otto."





“Well, I loved learning about the American Trinity.”

“Yes, Otto. Liberty, God, and American unity are what our great nation is all about.”

"It's almost dinnertime," I said with my stomach growling.  
"I'm getting hungry."

"Me too!" Dennis exclaimed. "Let's get ready for our  
Passover meal. Otto, did you know that Jesus's Last Supper  
was a Passover dinner?"

"Really?" I asked. "Do Passover and Easter have a lot in  
common?"

"Well," said Dennis, "they both celebrate God and freedom."







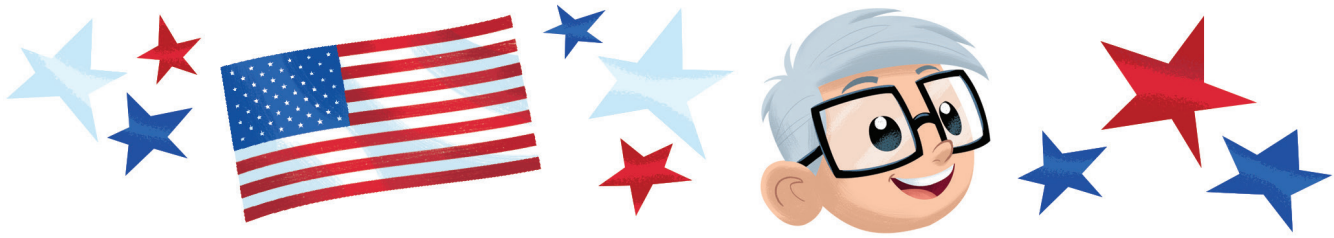
"That sounds sort of like 'In God We Trust' and 'Liberty,'" I said, "which are two parts of the American Trinity."

"You're right, Otto."

"America sure is a special place," I said.

"It sure is, Otto." Dennis continued, "God Bless America!"

"God Bless America! **Ruff Ruff!**"



# We Love Our History

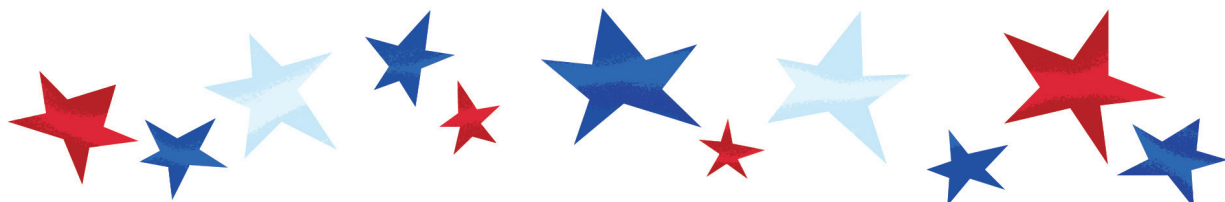
**American Trinity:** Three values that make the United States a unique, exceptional country. The first is a belief in liberty, that everyone has the right to live in freedom. The second is a belief in God, who made and gave everyone their rights. The third is the belief that America is one united country made up of people from different faiths and backgrounds. This is expressed in the motto, “Out of many, one,” or “*E Pluribus Unum*” in Latin. The three values are represented by the mottos, “Liberty,” “In God We Trust,” and “*E Pluribus Unum*,” which are almost always printed on American coins and dollar bills.

**Statue of Liberty:** A 151-foot-tall copper statue in New York Harbor of a woman standing upright, dressed in a robe, holding a stone tablet in her left hand and lifting a flaming torch in her right. The statue represents America’s love of liberty. It was a gift from France and was publicly dedicated by President Grover Cleveland on October 28, 1886.

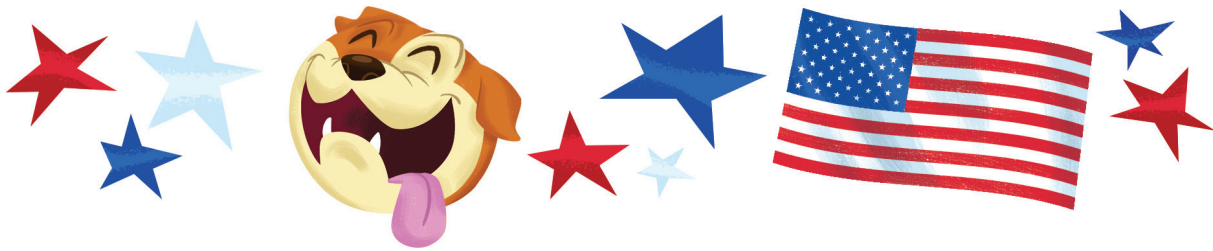
**Ellis Island:** An island in New York Harbor which was the site of a famous immigration station. From 1892 to 1954, 12 million immigrants entered the United States through Ellis Island. Today, visitors can tour the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration and learn about the history of immigration into America.

**Liberty:** Having freedom to live your life, believe what you want, and pursue happiness. The word appears on most U.S. coins and reminds us that, in America, people should be free.

**George Washington:** The Commander-in-Chief of American armies during the Revolutionary War, and later the first President of the United States. He fought for his country’s freedom because he believed that God created everyone and gave them the right to live their lives without oppression. There is a big monument to him in Washington, DC.







**Valley Forge:** A campsite in Pennsylvania used by America's Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. During the winter of 1777-1778, the Army stayed at Valley Forge and endured many hardships, such as lack of food and harsh, cold weather. Since then, Americans have had great respect for the soldiers who suffered there because of their example of patriotism.

**Revolutionary War:** The war fought by the American colonies against Great Britain. The war began because the British mistreated the colonists. The colonies won and established the United States as a new nation.

**In God We Trust:** The official motto of the United States. Congress made it the official motto in 1956, although it first appeared on U.S. coins during the American Civil War. It is printed on all U.S. currency today and is a reminder that belief in God was the foundation of America's commitment to individual liberty and has played an important role throughout America's history.

***E Pluribus Unum:*** A motto often used in the United States which, translated from Latin, means "Out of many, one." The motto dates to the founding of the country and describes how people in 13 states became one nation. Today, it is often interpreted to mean that people from around the world can become citizens of the United States. It consists of 13 letters, which symbolize the original 13 colonies. It appears on the Great Seal of the United States and on all U.S. currency today.



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**See you in  
our *next* adventure!**

- Dennis and Otto

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# Otto's Tales

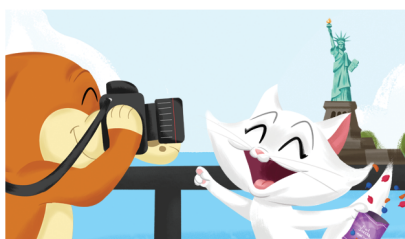
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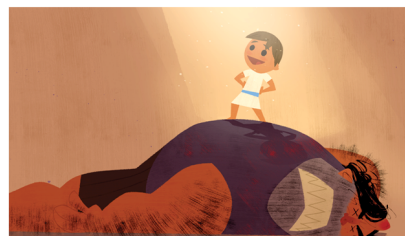
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